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every point of view, one of the great perils of contemporary civilization."

A favorite thesis of the author is that nations, like individuals, grow old, and that the present situation as to population, especially in France, is a mark of racial senility. He raises the serious question whether other nations are not destined to follow France toward stationariness or decline. For France there is the stern alternative of a speedy reform or depopulation and denationalization. Two centuries more of the present tendency would absolutely eliminate the French people. The remedy is clear and definite. It is to make the three-child family the normal one. Everything must be directed to this end. Not only must inheritance laws be changed, but public encouragement must be given to families having three or more children (*i.e.*, normal families) in the form of direct aid, preference in the public service and in housing, and plural votes for the fathers of such families.

In so far as the condition is due to economic causes these remedies might prove effective, but on the author's own showing the declining birth-rate is chiefly due to those secular psychic changes which temporary and external expedients would hardly reach. Of course the situation in France is exceptional, but it is critical largely because of military needs. Among most of the other civilized nations a lessening birth-rate is undoubtedly an economic and cultural gain. A good case may be made for the contention that most of the evils of population, at least outside of France, are not due to too low a rate of increase but to bad distribution of the population.

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*I Fattori Demografici dell' Evoluzione delle Nazioni.* By CORRADO GINI. (Torino: Fratelli Bocca. 1912. Pp. 139.)

*The Contributions of Demography to Eugenics.* By CORRADO GINI. Translated from the Italian. (London: Charles Knight and Company. 1913. Pp. 99.)

The first of these two essays, given originally in the form of a lecture, and somewhat popular in treatment, undertakes to explain the growth and decay of nations by variations in the birth-rates of different elements in their populations. The causes, in turn, of these variations in birth-rates the author finds in the degree of economic development reached in any given instance. This is not

the simple correlation between advancing prosperity and a declining birth-rate, so generally familiar, but a somewhat more extended cycle of cause and effect. The author's generalizations are supported by much interesting historical and statistical material relating to the principal civilized countries.

Of special interest to American readers is the discussion of migration as a factor in evolution. The material collected here seems to throw doubt upon the generally accepted theory that the progressive decline in our native birth-rate is due to fear of competition with the immigrant. For the examples adduced seem to show that hope of advancement rather than fear of degradation is the prime motive for restriction of population, which would suggest that our native birth-rate declined, not because immigration threatened the prosperity of the native-born, but because it was actually pushing them up, as a class, to higher economic levels.

The second essay is a detailed and ingenious statistical inquiry into the reasons for the high infant mortality of the human species. The data given are obtained mainly from the official vital statistics of different countries, but partly from investigations specially made by the writer in the offices of municipal statistics at Rome and Cagliari, and the lying-in hospitals of several Italian towns. This enquiry correlates the number and characteristics of offspring with season of conception, season of birth, interval between births, age of mother, of father, age of parents at marriage, difference in age of parents, their duration of life, and certain special characteristics.

Some of the more important conclusions are that while for some countries a greater frequency of births and greater viability of offspring from spring conceptions seems to indicate an advantage in confining reproduction to a supposed original or "natural" period, wider statistical enquiry does not sustain this as a general proposition: that the human characteristic of reproduction at all seasons of the year may, however, have an indirectly deleterious influence upon offspring by favoring deliveries at too frequent intervals: that the younger the parents at marriage the greater the vitality and the better the physical and intellectual characters of the offspring: that permitting the reproduction of the weak and degenerate lowers the vital resistance of the race: and, finally, that the most practical present means of improving the quality and increasing the quantity of offspring is lowering woman's age at marriage. For this, says Professor Gini, would not meet with the

opposition of self-interest, sentiment, or animal instinct, as would other remedies proposed, such as the introduction of natural feeding, increase of interval between deliveries, prevention of the reproduction of the unfit, or even lowering the age of men at marriage, but is "concordant with the girls' desires, and the aesthetic sentiments of the men."

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